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Borough of Exeter and Exmouth.



A N N U A L R E P O R T S

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

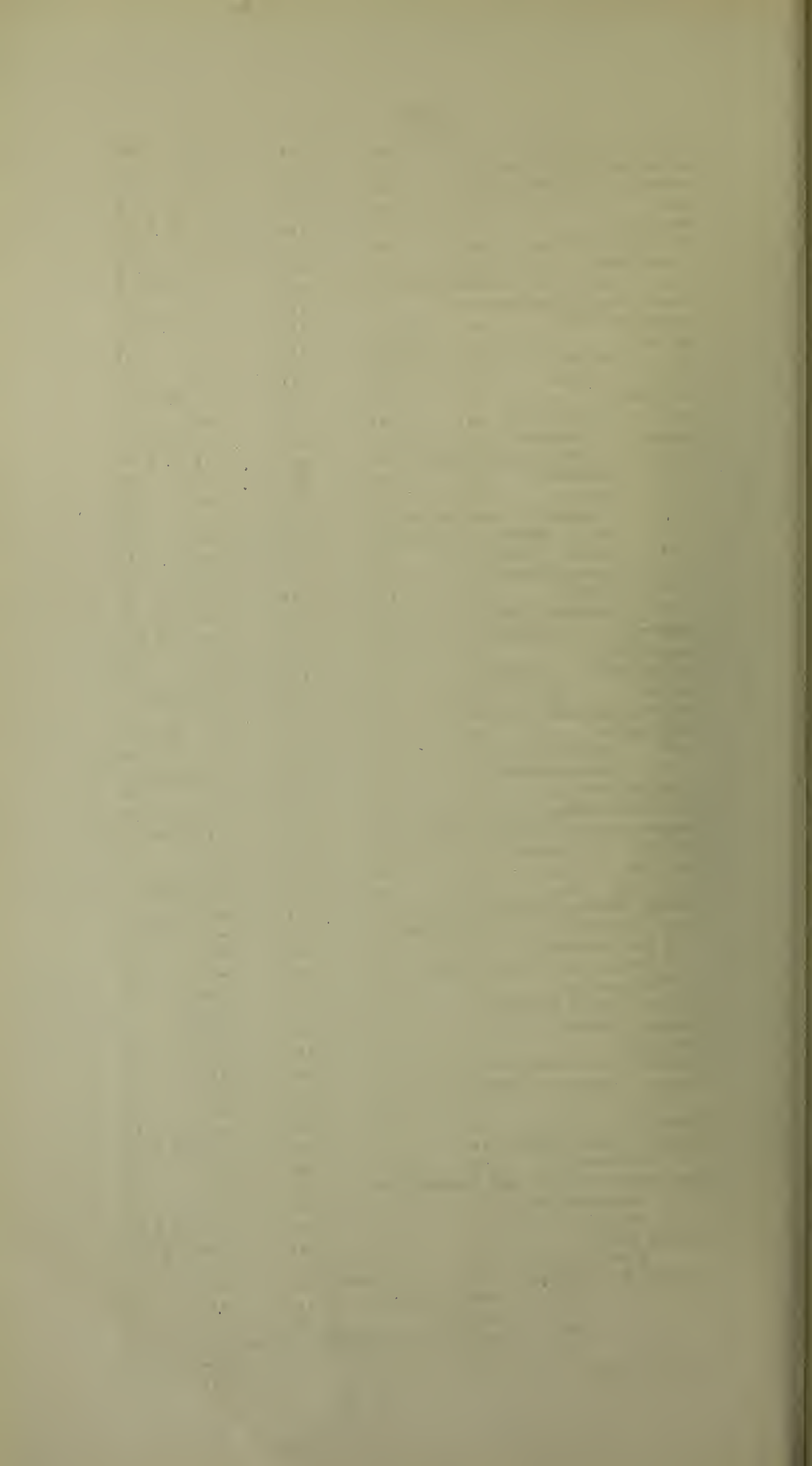
1950

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Public Health Department,  
West Hill House,  
West Hill,  
Epsom.

August, 1951.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Epsom and Ewell.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit an annual report for the year 1950, which has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 112/50. Under the same cover will be found the annual report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Weather conditions showed no extremes of hot or cold, but were notable for the excessive rainfall in most months of the year, with a noticeable deficiency of hours of sunshine. Notwithstanding this, the year was a healthy one, though the occurrence of a number of cases of influenza in December foretold the epidemic which occurred in the early months of 1951.

With regard to vital statistics, the death rate remained low and showed little variation on previous years; the birth rate was the lowest since the period of economic depression in 1931-33; the infant mortality rate was the lowest yet recorded, and as usual was well below the figure for England and Wales.

There were considerable outbreaks of scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough among children, against this diphtheria was limited to one case, poliomyelitis to two, and no notifications of typhoid or paratyphoid fevers were received.

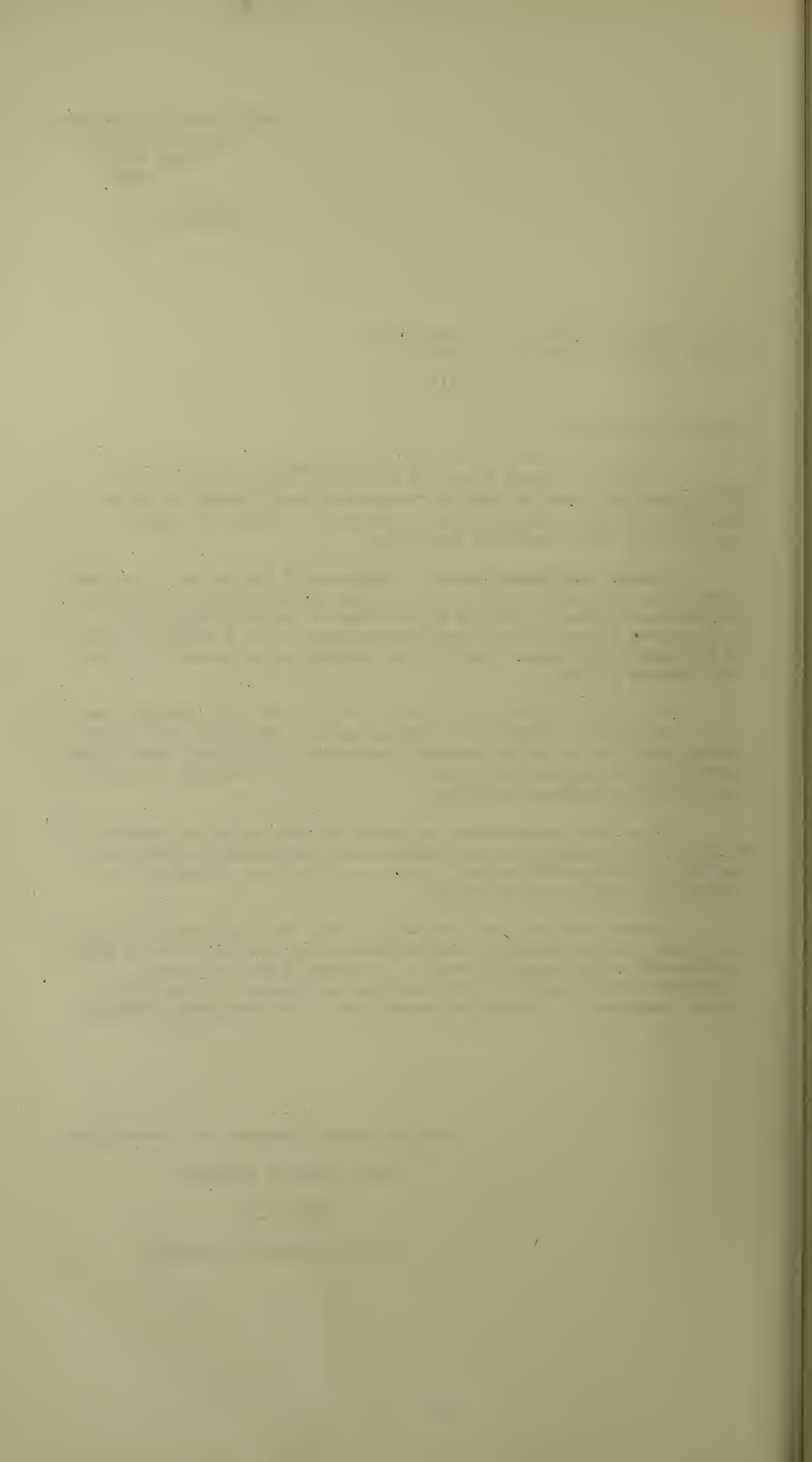
I have received great assistance from the able co-operation of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff, and from officers in other departments of the Council's staff. As usual I have been much encouraged by the support of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee. I thank the Council for their continued goodwill.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

CYRUS IVE

Medical Officer of Health



BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL  
STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

o Cyrus Ive, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

/ Wm. H.C. Hagger, M.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:

x/ L.H. Grace A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

x/ J.D. Smith	M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.	(Resigned 10.4.50.)
x/ P.E. Kinton	M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.	
x/ M.H. Stockley	C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.	(Appointed 1.6.50.)

Trained Nurse engaged on Public Health duties

Miss E. Hauxwell S.R.N.

(Devotes a proportion or time to work)  
(under the Divisional Medical Officer)  
(of the Surrey County Council.)

Medical Officer of Health's Clerical Staff:

Senior Clerk:	C.H. Argent.
Shorthand/Typist:	Miss F.I. Gardiner.
Telephonist:	Miss M.E. Hamper.

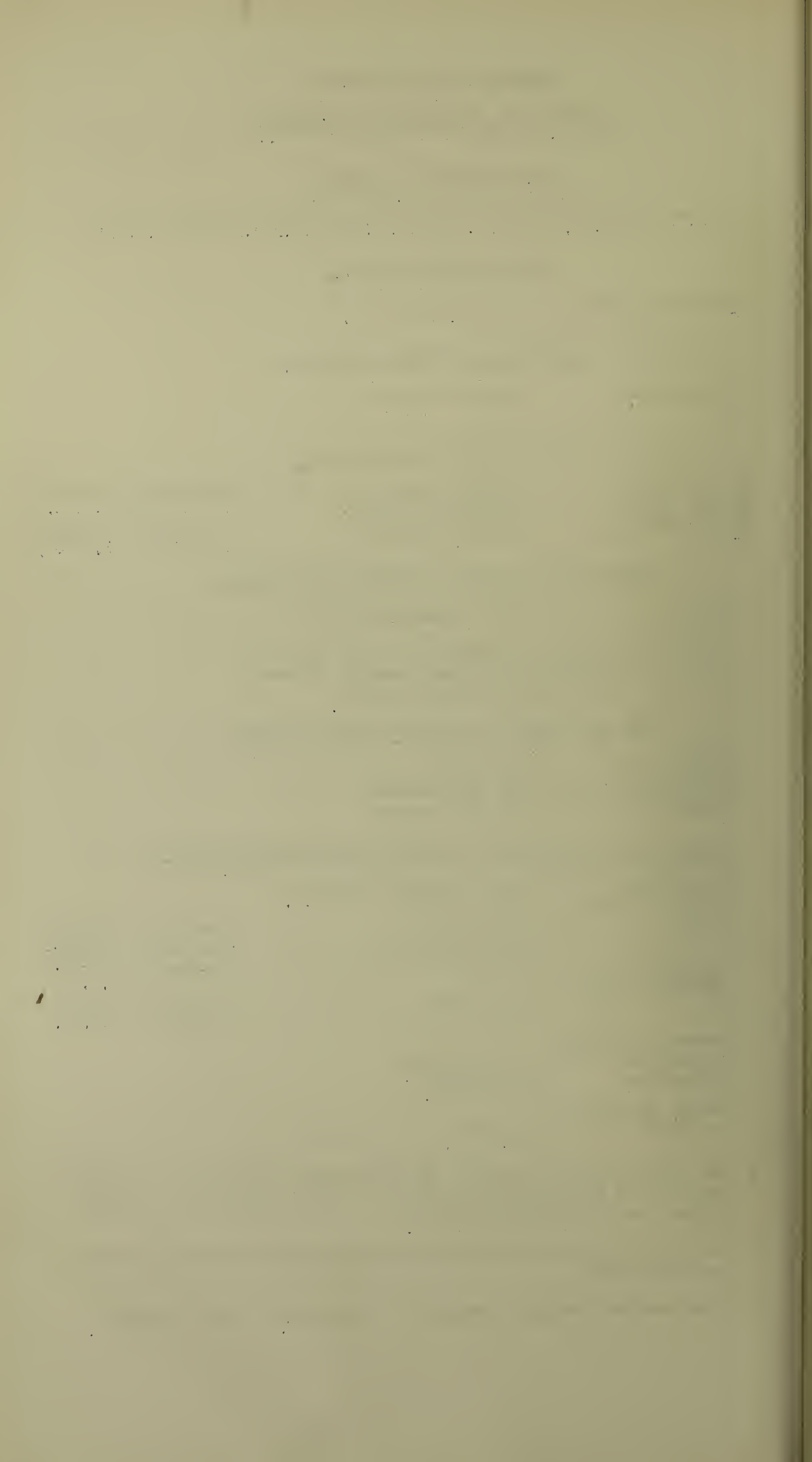
Chief Sanitary Inspector's Clerical Staff and Outside Staff

Chief Clerk:	H.T.J. Woolford A.R.San.I.	
Shorthand/Typist:	Miss D.D. Wood.	
Clerk:	C.W. Bailey.	(Resigned 16.3.50.)
	Mrs. J. Bulezuik.	(Appointed 1.5.50.)
Junior Clerk:	D. Brisk.	(Resigned 29.7.50.)
Temporary Junior Clerk:	R.S. Clapton.	(Appointed 4.9.50.)
General Assistants and Mortuary Attendants:	W. Goodenough. J. Stephens.	
Rodent Officer's Assistant:	A.E. Read.	

o The Medical Officer of Health and his clerical staff act in a similar capacity for the Dorking and Leatherhead Urban Districts and for the Dorking and Horley Rural District.

/ Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

x Holds Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

THE YEAR 1950

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	8,427
Population (Census 1931)...	...	...	...	...	...	35,231
Population (Estimated mid-year 1950)	...	...	...	...	...	68,460
Density (persons per acre).	...	...	...	...	...	8.12
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books at 31st December, 1950...	...	...	...	...	...	17,554
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	£738,985
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£2,994

The district is a diamond shaped area situated in the central part of the County of Surrey, measuring approximately six miles from north to south and four miles from east to west. Its southern boundaries reach the lower slopes of the North Downs; to the north it merges into the built-up area of Greater London. On the east it is separated from the neighbouring district by Nonsuch Park, and on the west by Epsom Common. It is particularly fortunate in possessing a large amount of public and private open space, some of which is in its natural state, and some developed as recreation grounds and parks. The subsoil of the southern third is chalk, and of the remainder clay, save for a narrow strip between these areas in which the Tertiary sands appear. The Hogsmill Stream rises in Ewell Village in springs derived from the chalk, and traverses the district in a north-easterly direction.

The area is mainly residential in character, a large proportion of the working population taking advantage of easy access to London. Hospitals, racing stables, transport undertakings, and an increasing number of light industries create local employment.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
Total live births	754	369	385	} Birth rate per 1,000 Population	11.0
Legitimate	724	356	368		
Illegitimate	30	13	17		
<u>Still Births</u>					
Total still births	21	11	10	} Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	27.1
Logitimate	21	11	10		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		
<u>Deaths (net)</u>	629	321	308	} Crude Death Rate 9.2	
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</u>					
Total infant deaths	12	6	6		
Legitimate	12	6	6		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births					15.9
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					16.6
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					-



Deaths from puerperal causes:

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	1	1.29
Other Maternal Causes	-	-

Deaths from:-

Measles	(all ages)	-
Whooping Cough	(all ages)	-
Diarrhoea	(under 2 years of age)	-
Neoplasm (Cancer etc.)	(all ages)	113

Table II shows a comparison of vital statistics for the district since 1931, with figures for England and Wales during the same period.

BIRTHS

Live births numbered 754, of which 369 were males and 385 females, representing a birth rate of 11.0 per 1,000 of the population, compared with the rate of 15.8 for England and Wales. The birth rate is the lowest to be recorded for this district since 1931. A comparability factor (1.06) has been supplied by the Registrar General, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas for use when comparing the local rate with those of other districts. After application of the factor the birth rate is increased to 11.7.

Twenty-one still births were registered during the year giving a still birth rate of 0.31 compared with the rate of 0.37 per 1,000 population for England and Wales.

DEATHS

The deaths registered in the area after correction for inward and outward transfers numbered 629, representing a crude death rate of 9.2 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, compared with the figure of 11.6 for England and Wales. The total included 321 males and 308 females. The average age at death for males and females was 64.5 and 69.2 respectively

In Table II will be found crude annual death rates covering the period 1931-1950. A marked rise will be noticed to have occurred in 1941 and to have persisted in subsequent years, whereas the corresponding figures for England and Wales show a small but steady decline. The explanation for this local increase lies in administrative arrangements in the Registrar General's office, whereby at the outbreak of war alterations were made in the statistical treatment of transferable deaths to meet the abnormal conditions caused by evacuation. Up to that time the deaths of persons dying in hospitals or institutions were assigned to their place of permanent residence. Under these arrangements the deaths of many persons occurring in hospitals or institutions are assigned to the area in which the death occurred. The effect of the change has been particularly noticeable in this district, which has a large hospital population whose place of residence is normally in one or other of the metropolitan boroughs. During the year the deaths of 24 inmates of local mental hospitals were assigned to the district, though none were resident prior to admission.

A comparability factor (0.97) has been provided by the Registrar General for application to the crude death rate (9.2) which has the effect of smoothing out discrepancies in local rates due to differences in the age and sex constitution of district populations, thus enabling more accurate comparisons to be made. Application of the factor to the local rate reduces it to 8.9 per 1,000 population.



## Deaths (contd)

The causes of death are set out in Table III. Those relating to infectious diseases are considered in the section of the report dealing with those diseases, and the causes of infant deaths are analysed in the succeeding paragraph. As usual heart disease, diseases of the circulatory system and cancer were the most frequent causes of death in the older age groups. At younger ages tuberculosis took serious toll. Approximately 49% of deaths took place in hospitals.

### INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of children under the age of one year numbered 12, of which 6 were males and 6 females. The infant mortality rate for the year was 15.9 per 1,000 live births.

Nine of the deaths occurred within 28 days of birth, and 6 of these within 1 day. In 5 deaths the cause was attributed directly or indirectly to prematurity. Of the remainder, 3 deaths were due to congenital malformations, and 1 each to influenzal meningitis, lobar pneumonia, broncho-pneumonia and cerebral haemorrhage.

Reference to Table II shows that the low mortality rate for this district was maintained and that, in fact, this year's figure was the lowest ever recorded. There is evidence here of devotion and care by parents and others having charge of young children; of the teaching of sound methods of mothercraft by the staff of the local health authority; and of skill in the medical treatment of delicate and sick children.

### MATERNAL MORTALITY

For the second year in succession the maternal mortality rate at 1.29 exceeded the figure for England and Wales (0.81). The reason for this in both years was the occurrence of a death caused by infected abortion.

### POPULATION

The excess of births over deaths was 125. The Registrar General's estimate of population rose from 68,140 in 1949 to 68,460, an increase of 320. The preliminary report on the 1951 Census gives the total population of the Borough as 68,049.



TABLE I. COMPARATIVE BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1950

	England and Wales	Borough of Epsom & Ewell.
<u>Rates per 1,000 Home Population</u>		
<u>BIRTHS</u>		
Live Births	15.8	11.0
Still Births	0.37	0.31
<u>DEATHS</u>		
All causes	11.6	9.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	-
Whooping Cough	0.01	-
Diphtheria	0.00	-
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.29
Influenza	0.10	0.10
Smallpox	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	0.02	-
Pneumonia	0.46	0.48
<u>NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)</u>		
Typhoid Fever	0.00	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	-
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.01
Scarlet Fever	1.50	1.96
Whooping Cough	3.60	2.95
Diphtheria	0.02	-
Erysipelas	0.17	0.23
Smallpox	0.00	-
Measles	8.39	9.13
Pneumonia	0.70	0.89
Acute poliomyelitis	0.13	0.01
(including polioencephalitis)	0.05	0.01
Food Poisoning	0.17	0.07
<u>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</u>		
Deaths under 1 year of age	29.8	15.9
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	1.9	
<u>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births</u>		
Notifications (Corrected) of Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	5.81	15.5
<u>Maternal Mortality:</u>		
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	0.12	1.29
Other Maternal Causes	0.69	-



TABLE II

## COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Period	Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 Population. (Annual Rates 1941 - 1950)		Average Annual Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population (Annual Rates 1941 - 1950)		Average Annual Death Rate of Children under 1 year of age, per 1,000 Live Births. (Annual Rates 1941 - 1950)	
	England and Wales	Epsom and Ewell	England and Wales	Epsom and Ewell	England and Wales	Epsom and Ewell
1931 - 1940	14.9	12.6	12.2	7.3	58	41
1941	14.2	12.1	12.9	10.2	59	37.1
1942	15.8	16.0	11.6	9.4	49	34.6
1943	16.5	17.4	12.1	10.6	49	35.8
1944	17.6	16.3	11.6	9.9	46	33.5
1945	16.1	13.0	11.4	9.1	46	31.8
1946	19.1	15.8	11.5	9.1	43	26.2
1947	20.5	15.5	12.0	8.8	41	20.7
1948	17.9	12.3	10.8	8.5	31	22.7
1949	16.7	12.4	11.7	9.3	32	26.0
1950	15.8	11.0	11.6	9.2	29.8	15.9



TABLE III

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH OF EPSOM & EWELL

	M	F	TOTAL
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	13	6	19
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	2	-	2
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infectious	1	-	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	2	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	3	11
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	14	5	19
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	13	13
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	5	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	35	30	65
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	2	2	4
16. Diabetes.	1	2	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	38	44	82
18. Coronary disease, angina	50	24	74
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	3	9	12
20. Other heart disease.	33	58	91
21. Other circulatory disease.	15	16	31
22. Influenza	4	3	7
23. Pneumonia	13	20	33
24. Bronchitis	21	12	33
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	3	3	6
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	10	-	10
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	3	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.	2	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	7	-	7
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	1	1
31. Congenital malformations.	4	3	7
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	30	33	63
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
34. All other accidents	6	7	13
35. Suicide.	3	2	5
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	321	308	629



## 2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory service is maintained by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. A local laboratory of the service is working in temporary quarters in West Hill House, West Hill, Epsom. During the year 1950 the number of specimens sent by practitioners in this district was as follows:-

Nose and Throat Swabs	195
Faeces	35
Urine	7
Scrapings from Skin	1
Sputum	56
Blood	3
Cough Plates	7
Others	31
	<u>335</u>

In 1949 the comparable number of specimens examined was 410. The staff of the laboratory also examine and report on the bacteriological conditions of samples of milk, food and water taken by local authorities' Public Health Departments. In the course of the year 16 samples of water, 178 of milk and 103 of ice-cream taken in this district were examined. the results of the examination of water and milk supplies are summarised in later sections of this report, and those relating to ice-cream are dealt with in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The public ambulance service is under the control of the Surrey County Council.

The Borough is at present within the area of control of the main ambulance station at St. Helier Hospital, Carshalton. Control will, however, shortly be transferred to the main station at Kingston Hospital, Wolverton Avenue, Kingston. There is a local sub-station in Ewell which is equipped with three ambulances and two sitting case cars.

In accidents in the home or elsewhere or in sudden illness in streets and public places, any responsible person may call the ambulance to remove the patient (if by telephone dial 999). Normal maternity cases will be removed if the applicant can give evidence that a maternity bed has been booked. Maternity cases with serious complications, or where birth is imminent, will not normally be moved without the authority of a doctor or certified midwife who should travel with the patient in the ambulance. The removal of other cases of illness or accident will be arranged by the hospital concerned, or by the medical practitioner in charge of the patient. For private removals a written request accompanied by a Doctor's certificate should be made to the County Medical Officer for his consideration. Providing that these requirements are fulfilled, no charge will be made to users.

In addition to the public ambulance service, the Epsom Ambulance Service, a private hire firm, of West Street, Epsom. (Tel. Epsom 745) maintains three ambulances and provides a day and night service. Charges are made on a mileage basis.



## HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Hospitals previously owned and administered by local authorities and private bodies were transferred to the Regional Hospital Board under the National Health Service Act.

There are two classes of case for which the provision of accommodation is of particular interest to this authority on whom rests the ultimate responsibility for the removal of the patient.

(1) Cases of Infectious Disease. In the majority of instances the practitioner in charge requests the removal of the patient to hospital by direct application to the hospital, or by reference to the Public Health Department. The reduction in the number of beds available for cases of infectious disease at Cuddington Hospital has extended the number of hospitals to which application may have to be made in the search for accommodation, and in this respect great assistance has been given by the Hospital Bed Service, which is always in possession of the latest bed-state of hospitals in the region. During the year 114 patients were removed to hospitals for infectious diseases, the following hospitals being involved in providing accommodation - Cuddington (53), The Grove, Tooting (16), Western Hospital, Fulham (1), Tolworth (17), Wandle Valley, Mitcham (16), St. Mary's, Carshalton (1), Ottershaw, Chertsey (6) Croydon Isolation Hospital (1), Bletchingley (1), South Middlesex (2).

(2) Cases removed under the National Assistance Act 1948 - Section 47. Under this section of the act it is possible to seek the compulsory removal to hospital or other suitable residential accommodation of persons who by reason of old age or chronic infirmity are not able to give themselves proper attention, and who do not receive sufficient care from other people,

The facts relating to a chronic invalid were reported to the Public Health Committee and subsequently the Council made application to the Magistrates Court for an Order under section 47, which was granted subject to review by the court in three months, and the patient was admitted to hospital.

## NURSING IN THE HOME

GENERAL NURSING - The greater part of this work is undertaken by 2 Nursing Associations operating in the district. The Epsom District Nursing Association maintains 4 whole-time nurses and 1 part-time nurse at 36, Temple Road, Epsom (Epsom 1153), and the Ewell District Nurse Association employs 4 whole-time nurses and 1 part-time nurse at 2, Bypass Road, Ewell (Ewell 2022).

The National Health Service Act placed on local health authorities, in this case the Surrey County Council, the duty to provide nurses, employed either by themselves or by voluntary organisations, to attend persons who require nursing in their own houses. The service to be provided is free of charge to the users of it. So far the County Council has carried out its obligations by supporting the continuance of the existing nursing association through the agency of the Surrey County Nursing Association.

PROVISION OF NURSING EQUIPMENT AND APPARATUS - The Surrey County Council being the local health authority have a Medical Loan Depot situated at West Hill House, Epsom, which is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11.a.m. - 1.p.m. and is administered for them by the Epsom, Ewell and Stoneleigh Division of the British Red Cross. I am indebted to Mrs. D. Hutt Divisional Secretary, for the information that 210 articles were loaned to residents of the Borough in 1950.

The equipment has a wide range of all that is necessary for nursing in the home, and includes water beds, bed tables and rests, and wheel-chairs. This service is free and fulfils an important need, particularly at a time when admission to hospitals is becoming more difficult.

HOME HELP - Details of this service can be obtained from the Supervisor at Ashley House, Ashley Road, Epsom, Telephone number Epsom 1134.



## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

CARE OF MOTHERS, YOUNG CHILDREN ETC. - The provision of services relating to the care of mothers and young children, midwifery, health visiting, home nursing, immunisation and vaccination, ambulance and domestic help are the responsibility of the Surrey County Council as local health authority. Day to day administration is carried on by the Central Divisional Health Sub-Committee with offices in this Borough.

County Council Health Centres are situated at 44, Waterloo Road, Epsom, and at Ewell Court House. The Epsom Health Centre also serves as a tuberculosis dispensary for Epsom and Ewell, Leatherhead and a part of Banstead. It was pointed out in my reports of 1948 and 1949 that the growth of the activities at the centre has created a position which makes the removal of the tuberculosis work to other quarters very desirable. It is now understood that the Regional Hospital Board propose to provide alternative accommodation for the chest clinic in 1951.

Some of the outlying parts of the Borough are served by centres situated in adjacent districts, and for the isolated area of Langley Vale clinics are held twice a month at conveniently situated premises. The growth of population on the Wells Estate which has resulted from the building development there, requires similar arrangements to be made in that area. The absence of suitable accommodation has prevented action. It is hoped that this difficulty will eventually be overcome, and that a centre will be opened on this estate.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION - Immunisation against diphtheria can be obtained from general practitioners under the terms of the National Health Service Act or from County Council clinics.

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION'S CLINIC - A branch of the Family Planning Association is active in the Borough. It provides a weekly clinic at the Epsom District Hospital with the consent of the Hospital Management Committee and the Medical Superintendent. The medical staff is appointed by the Association and is assisted by voluntary workers. The work of the Association is concerned with the teaching of contraception to married persons, and also with the investigation of sub-fertility. All enquiries should be made to Mrs. Andrews, 49, Thorndon Gardens, Stoneleigh, (Ewell 2500).

TREATMENT OF SCABIES - The clinic for the treatment of people suffering from scabies has continued its work in the premises at the rear of "The Cedars", Church Street, Epsom. The work is carried out by a general-trained State registered nurse, and has undoubtedly been effective in its results. The function of the clinic is essentially treatment, and patients are not accepted unless referred by a medical practitioner. Emphasis is laid on the importance of prophylactic treatment for close contacts.

Facilities of the clinic are open to the residents of Leatherhead Urban District, whose Council undertakes a proportionate share in the establishment. During the year 38 persons were treated, 16 of the total being resident in the Leatherhead Urban District. These figures compare with an attendance of 117 in the previous year, including 41 from Leatherhead.

The clinic has also been used in assisting persons to rid themselves of infestation by head and body lice. forty-two patients were treated for head lice, Of these 13 were residents of the Leatherhead Urban District. In addition 2 adult residents of the Epsom district were treated for body lice. Experience shows that body lice infestation is rare in this district; head lice infestation is a more common occurrence, usually detected by the health visitors at the medical inspections of school children.

VENEREAL DISEASES - The Regional Hospital Board are the authority responsible for the administration of matters dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases. Details of local clinics are set out on the next page.



BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE - The South London Blood Transfusion Depot, situated at Stanley Avenue, Belmont, Surrey (Tel.No.Vigilant 0068) has a day and night service for the issuing of blood for transfusion purposes. This can be obtained by medical practitioners on application direct to them.

A time-table of clinics available is set out below:-

Ante-natal Clinic	Epsom County Hospital	Thurs.2.p.m. & every 2nd Tues. in month 2.p.m.
	Ewell Court House, Kingston Road, Ewell.	Fridays 1.30.- 4.p.m.
	Priory Crescent, North Cheam.	Mon.& Fri. 9.30.-12.a.m.
Child Welfare Clinics	44,Waterloo Road, Epsom.	Mon.& Wed. 2 - 4 p.m.
	Ewell Court House, Kingston Road, Ewell.	Mon. Wed. and Thurs. 1.30. - 4.p.m.
	Jubilee Institute, Malden Road, Worcester Park.	Mon.& Thurs. 1.30.p.m.
	Priory Crescent, North Cheam.	Mon.& Thurs. 1.30. - 4.p.m.
	Parochial Rooms, Malden Road, Cheam.	Weds. 2 - 4 p.m.
	"Tanhurst" Rosebery Road, Epsom Downs.	1st and 3rd Weds. in month at 2.p.m.
Family Planning Association Clinic	Epsom County Hospital.	Fridays 7.p.m.
General School Medical Minor Ailments Clinics	44, Waterloo Road, Epsom.	Wednesdays 9.30. - 12.a.m.
Scabies Treatment Clinic	"The Cedars", Church Street, Epsom.	By appointment only.
Chest Clinic	44, Waterloo Road, Epsom.	Tues.& Thurs. 2.p.m. Every 3rd Thurs. in month at 5.30.p.m.
Venereal Diseases Clinics	St.Helier Hospital, Wrythe Lane, Garshilton.	Males: Mon. 5 - 7 p.m. Females:Weds.5 - 7 p.m. Fri. 1.30.-3.30p.m.
	County Hospital, Wolverton Avenue, Kingston-on-Thames.	Females:Thurs.5 - 7 p.m.
(And at the Out-patient Deartments of many London Hospitals)		
Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics	44, Waterloo Road, Epsom.	Every Friday 10.a.m.
	Ewell Court House, Kingston Road, Ewell.	Every Tuesday 2.p.m.



WATER

That part of the district constituting the parish of Epsom is supplied by water from the Council's undertaking. The water is obtained from deep wells, boring and adits in the chalk situated in East Street, and is chlorinated before distribution. No softening is carried out though it is the Council's intention to instal a softening process when it is able to obtain the sanction of the Ministry of Health to the financial expenditure and to the use of labour and materials. Frequent bacteriological samples and chemical samples of raw and treated water have been taken under the direction of the Borough Water Engineer. The results show that the raw water and the water pumped to supply have been of excellent quality.

Ewell and the greater part of Cuddington are supplied by the Sutton District Water Company with a softened water derived from wells in the chalk situated at Cheam, Sutton and Woodmansterne. Frequent samples have been taken at domestic premises in this area and results found to be satisfactory. Copies of analytical results have also been received at regular intervals of samples taken by the Company's officials.

For reference, details are set out of typical results of chemical analyses taken in the areas of supply of the Borough Water Undertaking and of the Sutton District Water Company.

Chemical Results in parts per 100,000Borough of Epsom and Ewell Water Undertaking

Appearance:	Clear and bright.	Odour	... ..	Nil
Colour (Hazen)	... .. Nil	Free Carbon Dioxide	... ..	16
Reaction pH	... .. 7.3	Total Solids dried at 180° C.	... ..	320
Electric Conductivity at 20° C	480	Alkalinity as Calcium		
Chlorine in Chlorides	... .. 14	Carbonate	... ..	220
Hardness:	... .. Total 280	Nitrogen in Nitrates	... ..	Less than 0.01
Carbonate (Temporary)	220	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C	... ..	0.00
Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	60	Residual Chlorine		-
Nitrogen in Nitrates	... .. 5.2	Turbidity (Silica scale)	... ..	Nil
Free Ammonia	... .. 0.000			
Albuminoid Ammonia	... .. 0.000			
Metals	... .. Absent			

Chemical Results in parts per 1,000,000Sutton District Water Company

Appearance:	Clear and bright.	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	... ..	0.091
Colour	... .. Nil	Albuminoid Nitrogen	... ..	0.000
Reaction pH	... .. 7.9	Metals	... ..	Absent
Electric Conductivity	... .. 250	Turbidity	... ..	Less than 3
Chlorine present as Chloride	... .. 13	Odour	... ..	Nil
Hardness:	... .. Total 115	Free Carbon Dioxide	... ..	Trace
Carbonate	85	Total Solids	... ..	170
Non-Carbonate	30	Alkalinity as Calcium		
Grains per Gall:...	... .. Total 8.1	Carbonate	... ..	85
Carbonate	6.0	Oxygen absorbed	... ..	0.00
Non-Carbonate	2.1	Residual Chlorine	... ..	0.20
Nitrate Nitrogen	... .. 4.0			
Nitrite Nitrogen	... .. Less than 0.01			

A number of houses in the northern part of the area are supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board, and two cottages on the south-west outskirts of Epsom by the East Surrey Water Company.

One house only in the district is reported to be dependant on a standpipe for its supply.

There are no premises in the district for which a piped water supply is not available.



## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage from the Borough is dealt with at two Works, one situated at Hook Road, Epsom, and the other near Ruxley Lane, West Ewell.

Sewage from the Epsom area is delivered to the Hook Road Works where a considerable part is treated by the Simplex Aeration Plant. The remainder gravitates to or is pumped and distributed over the land, passing finally through contact beds, storm water tanks being brought into operation during heavy flows. The whole of the effluent drains to a tributary of the River Hogsmill and amounts to about 1,600,000 gallons per day dry weather flow.

Sewage from Ewell and Cuddington (other than from a small area which discharges to the Sutton and Cheam Works) gravitates to the Ruxley Works. From the West Ewell district sewage is pumped to a balancing tank where it combines with sewage from Chessington within the Borough of Surbiton. Treatment is by settling tanks and percolating filters, and finally through humus tanks. Sludge is dealt with on sludge drying beds and storm water by a storm water tank. The whole of the effluent flows to the River Hogsmill, the dry weather flow being approximately 1,300,000 gallons per day.

Additional treatment plant was constructed at the Ruxley Works for treating sewage and process waste from certain Government buildings which were erected during the War at Chessington.

Further extensions to the plant generally are nearing completion; a £30,000 scheme having been approved by the Ministry of Health.

There are 118 cesspools in the Borough and at 17 premises pail closets or chemical closets are in use.

## SANITARY CONVENIENCES ON EPSOM DOWNS

The question of sanitary accommodation and water supply on Epsom Downs received further consideration of the Public Health Committee during the year. A scheme was prepared by the Borough Engineer for the erection of temporary conveniences for use during Race Meetings, including the provision of a water supply and flushing system with drainage connected to the main sewer.

Agreement with the Epsom Grand Stand Association Ltd., was reached on the sites for the conveniences and on the line of sewers. The financial aspect of the scheme remained under discussion at the end of the year.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) COLLECTION OF REFUSE - The arrangements for public cleansing are carried out under the supervision of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

Trade refuse is removed by the Council under an arrangement whereby one bin of trade refuse is removed for every £40 of the rateable value of the premises, a standard charge being made for any additional quantity removed.

(b) DISPOSAL OF REFUSE - Disposal of household and trade refuse continues to be partly by incineration at the Epsom Sewage Works, and partly by controlled tipping at the disused brick works in East Street. An important advantage of the latter system is the reclamation of useless land, which if left would tend to become a permanent eyesore and nuisance. There has been a great improvement in the condition of the tip, and a reduction in the number of complaints about it received from the public.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

The Hogsmill Stream continued to give rise to complaints from time to time, particularly during warm weather. Notwithstanding any improvements which can be effected at the two sewage works in the Borough which discharge their effluent into the stream, it is unlikely that cause for complaint of effluvia will cease until the Hogsmill Valley Joint Sewerage Scheme is put into operation.



## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

The Municipal Baths are situated in East Street, Epsom, and comprise a covered swimming bath (convertible into a hall) turkish, foam and slipper baths and a cafe. Swimming bath water is subjected to continuous filtration and chlorination. Frequent bacteriological examinations are made to test the efficiency of the purification process.

There is one privately owned swimming pool in the Borough open to the general public. The pool is equipped with plant for continuous filtration and chlorination, and the water is subjected to periodical bacteriological examinations.

The other bathing pools in the Borough are provided in connection with schools and clubs and are not open to the general public.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, the action and the result of action taken in regard to these, will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

### 4. REHOUSING

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer for the following information regarding the number of new houses erected during the year:-

Erected by the local authority	51
Erected by private enterprise	61
Converted properties:	
(a) By the local authority	-
(b) By private enterprise	13 housing units.

There is a very long waiting list of applicants for houses lodged in the office of the Council's Housing Manager. Many of these are undoubtedly in great need of improved accommodation, and the unavoidably long delay in fulfilling their requirements causes great irritation and a sense of frustration which in many cases affects the mental and physical health of those concerned. This is confirmed by the fact that a large proportion of applicants have submitted medical certificates supporting claims for priority. A great variety of illnesses are mentioned on these certificates, indicating the many mental and physical effects which are attributed to bad housing. Careful consideration is given to all certificates, but priority is not recommended on the state of health of an individual member of a family, unless it can be shown very clearly that danger to the health of other members of the community exists. In this way the interests of other applicants waiting their turn to be allotted a house are safeguarded. The disease which is most likely to comply with the Council's conditions for priority is pulmonary tuberculosis. In 1950 4 houses were allocated to applicants in whose families there were tuberculous members, bringing the total of such cases to 61 in the past 6 years.

A matter for concern is the steady deterioration of many old cottages which have outlived their useful life. The time must shortly come when some will certainly become uninhabitable, and a fresh demand will be made on the small supply of new houses to accommodate their present occupants.

### 5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector indicates the effort which he and his assistants have made in the inspection and supervision of food, and in encouraging its careful and clean handling by all concerned.



## ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The Surrey County Council continue to administer the sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, dealing with the adulteration of food. I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the information that a total of 82 samples for analysis were taken in this district by his staff. These included 32 samples of milk, 5 of sausages, 4 of spirits and ice-cream, 3 each of custard powder, ground almonds, jam and mincemeat, and 25 miscellaneous articles. Five samples were found to be adulterated or deteriorated, including one each of milk, cream cheese, sweet spread, dates and chutney.

The information was also given that within that part of the County in which the County Council acts as Food and Drugs authority a total of 1,864 samples were taken for analysis, including 1,443 of milk. One hundred and seventy-six samples were found to be adulterated or irregular, 143 of these being of milk. Prosecutions were undertaken in 16 cases and convictions were obtained in 8.



6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table IV shows the number of cases of infectious disease notified during 1950, classified according to age and sex, together with the number of patients removed to hospital, and the number of deaths, if any, from the various diseases.

SMALLPOX - No case of smallpox was notified during the year.

SMALLPOX CONTACTS - Six possible contacts of smallpox arrived in this district from the s.s. Strathnaver, and were kept under surveillance for the requisite period.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX - During the year notifications were received from medical practitioners of 589 primary vaccinations, and 264 revaccinations which had been performed by them. Of the primary vaccinations 463 related to children under the age of one year, equivalent to 61.4% of the number of births registered in the Borough during the year, as against 41.7% for the previous year. These are encouraging figures and suggest that the abolition of the compulsory element of vaccination by a public vaccinator and the substitution of a voluntary system in which the family doctor and the staff of the local health authority have an active interest was a wise move.

SCARLET FEVER - One hundred and thirty-four cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, compared with 116 for the previous year. The case rate per 1,000 population was 1.96 as against 1.50 for England and Wales. Notifications were received during each month of the year, being most numerous in the months of January, February and March. Sixty-nine of the cases were admitted to hospitals for infectious diseases and 65 were nursed in their own homes. The home-nursed cases represent 48% of the total number of cases notified. The illness was generally of a mild nature and no deaths were reported. In addition to the above, two suspected cases were admitted to isolation hospitals for treatment in whom the diagnosis was not confirmed.

DIPHTHERIA - One case of diphtheria was notified during the year. The case rate was 0.01 per 1,000 population as against 0.02 for England and Wales. The case notified was a male member of the nursing staff of an institution situated in the Borough. Five patients were admitted to hospital as suspected cases of diphtheria in which the diagnosis was not confirmed. Reference to Table V indicates the decline which has taken place in the incidence of this disease.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION - Active immunisation against diphtheria has now been in operation in the Borough since 1935 and can claim a part in the reduction of the incidence and mortality rates which has occurred. The ideal is for every child to receive a primary treatment of two injections at about the age of nine months, with secondary treatment consisting of single injections at every 3 to 4 years during school life to reinforce the original treatment. It is not claimed even with such treatment that absolute immunisation will be attained by every child, but there is clear evidence that the risk of an untreated child contracting diphtheria is four times as great as that of an immunised child, and that the risk of death is nearly thirty times as great.

Clinics are held at regular intervals at the Welfare Centres in Waterloo Road, Epsom, and at the Ewell Court House, Ewell. Treatment can also be obtained at the Infant Centres in Worcester Park, North Cheam, Cheam Village, and Langley Vale, of which details are set out on page 12. These arrangements are intended primarily for infants and others under school age. Clinics in schools have been organised by the Divisional School Medical Officer for pupils requiring treatment, usually the reinforcing course.



### Diphtheria Immunisation (contd)

During the year 2,816 children were treated. As will be seen by the figures given below, the bulk of this work is done at clinics held by the local health authority, though general practitioners gave the treatment to a considerable number of infants.

	<u>Primary Treatment</u>	<u>Reinforcing Treatment</u>
Treated at Clinics and Schools	401	1,967
Treated by General Practitioners	359	88
	<u>760</u>	<u>2,055</u>

Of the children receiving primary treatment, 243 were in age group 0-1 year, and 384 in age group 1 - 2 years.

To summarise the position, it is estimated that 3,337 children under the age of 5 years, and 6,899 over 5 years but under 15 years, have now received treatment, equivalent to percentages of 70.4 and 80.4 respectively of the estimated population in these age groups.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS (Infantile Paralysis) - Two cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year, compared with 7 in 1949. Both patients were females aged 3 years and 14 years respectively. The case rate was 0.03 per 1,000 population compared with 0.18 per 1,000 population for England and Wales. In the case of the younger child the disease was of the non-paralytic type and early recovery was complete. The older child suffered from a severe attack of the disease, with paralysis of the muscles of the back and abdominal wall. After prolonged hospital treatment a good recovery is now likely with no residual crippling.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION - One case was notified giving a case rate of 0.01 per 1,000 population against 0.03 for England and Wales. The patient was a child aged 3 years who was admitted to hospital originally as a case of poliomyelitis. Death occurred within 36 hours of the onset of illness.

Puerperal Pyrexia - Twelve cases were notified giving a case rate of 15.5 per 1,000 live and still births compared with a rate of 5.81 for England and Wales. Nine of the notifications were received from the maternity unit of the Epsom District Hospital, 6 of them related to patients who were admitted for their confinements from addresses outside the Borough.

MEASLES - Six hundred and twenty-five cases of measles were notified during the year. The majority of the notifications were received during the months of April to September, and were chiefly of the 5 - 10 years age group. Six cases were admitted to hospital owing to complications or lack of nursing facilities in the home. The case rate per 1,000 population was 9.13 compared with the rate of 8.39 per 1,000 population for England and Wales. No deaths were reported from the disease.

WHOOPING COUGH - Two hundred and two cases of whooping cough were notified during the year. The case rate for Epsom and Ewell being 2.95 per 1,000 population against a rate of 3.60 for England and Wales. Six cases were admitted to hospital for treatment. No deaths were registered from the disease, but this is an illness which may have serious results on the respiratory system which may not show their full effects until later life. Investigations have been carried out on a large scale by the Medical Research Council into the effectiveness of several vaccines which have been claimed to have protective powers against whooping cough. A report issued recently verifies in varying degrees the claims made on behalf of some of these products. No doubt this information will stimulate the demand for the use of the more successful materials. During the year 252 children were reported to have been immunised simultaneously against whooping cough and diphtheria. No doubt many others were immunised against whooping cough alone, but as there is at present no authority to pay a fee for the notification of this treatment, it is not surprising that only 6 such notifications were received from medical practitioners.



FOOD POISONING - Five cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. Two cases were notified from a residential institution situated in the Borough; the remaining 3 cases were from separate households, and were unrelated. Enquiries were made as soon as information was received of the occurrence of illness to ascertain the source of infection. Although the causative organisms were isolated from patients in 4 of the 5 cases, it was impossible to trace back their origin because the food concerned had either been consumed or any remnants destroyed. The case rate was 0.07 per 1,000 population for Epsom and Ewell against the rate of 0.17 for England and Wales.

TUBERCULOSIS - At the end of the year 592 names remained on the tuberculosis register, 505 (275 males, 230 females) having been notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 87 (50 males, 37 females) from other forms of tuberculosis. The total of 592 is 23 less than that for 1949. In the course of the year there have been added the names of 52 persons already resident in the Borough and of 27 persons previously notified in other areas and now living here, and there have been removed the names of 46 notified persons who have transferred to other districts, of 30 who are now regarded as recovered, and of 26 who have died (20 in 1950 and 6 in previous years in which there has been a delay in verification of death).

Nineteen deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were registered giving a death rate of 0.28. One death occurred from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, giving a death rate of 0.01 and a total tuberculosis death rate of 0.29 compared with 0.36 for England and Wales. The local death rate from tuberculosis for the year 1949 was 0.40.

An analysis into the types of disease, sex and age groups of the new additions to the register and of those removed by reason of death is to be found in Table VI.

The prevention of tuberculosis disease calls for the solution of several problems. Some of these, including the provision of adequate medical services; a sufficient number of hospital beds where modern methods of treatment can be carried out; of residential accommodation for infectious patients not able to be given effective isolation in their own houses, are matters under the control of other authorities. The question of rehousing, which can be of great importance in the prevention of infection, is one for this authority to deal with. That it is being done so energetically can be judged from the fact that in the post-war period 61 houses have been let to families with a tuberculous member.

The most promising factor in obtaining a reduction in the incidence of tuberculous disease is the use of B.C.G. vaccination, if the claims made on its behalf are substantiated. At present this treatment is reserved for certain classes of persons at special risk of becoming infected, and for a large group of volunteers taken from children of school leaving age who have been made the subject of a controlled investigation.

Mass Radiography - The South Western Metropolitan Regional Mass X-ray Unit paid its second visit to the Borough, when the following number of persons took advantage of the service:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
At Hook Road Depot, Epsom,	637	1169
At Ewell Court, Ewell.	914	926
	<u>1551</u>	<u>2095</u>
TOTAL		<u>3436</u>

The Epsom, Leatherhead and District Tuberculosis Care Committee has continued its work with energy during the year under the Chairmanship of the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell Alderman Mrs. A. Winton. The Secretary of the Committee is Miss Linford, who is also the Surrey County Council's Care Almoner in the area, and the Treasurer is Mr. T. L. Flanagan, of the Epsom branch of the Westminster Bank. Members of the Committee include representatives of the Borough Council, the Leatherhead Urban District Council, associations and societies interested in social welfare, and officers engaged in work connected with health, welfare and relief. Thus the Committee is in a good position to help solve the special problems of the tuberculous person and the household to which he belongs. Much valuable work has been done, and remains to be done in the future, notwithstanding the advent of new social legislation.



TABLE IV

Cases Notified																							
Under 1 year		1 to 3		3 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 25		25 to 45		45 to 65		65 years and over		All ages		Total all ages both sexes	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F				
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Polio-myelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Polio-cen-caphalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ophthalmia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles	6	5	54	39	84	94	142	184	9	4	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	625	9	
Whooping Cough	7	4	16	23	24	27	40	49	3	2	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	202	6	
	13	9	75	68	126	134	231	279	17	15	10	19	13	24	11	9	6	4	502	561	1063	85	34



TABLE V

## INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN THE BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL 1934 - 1950

Year	No. of cases Notified	Incidence Rate per 1,000 Population	Number of Deaths	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population	Immunisation. No. of primary treatments in each year.
1934	34 (1)	0.78	3	0.06	-
1935	13 (1)	0.29	-	-	167
1936	20 (1)	0.39	-	-	500
1937	15 (3)	0.26	-	-	520
1938	17 (3)	0.29	1	0.02	597
1939	8 (1)	0.13	-	-	370
1940	6 (3)	0.09	-	-	463
1941	15 (5)	0.24	-	-	2654
1942	11 (6)	0.18	1	0.02	1727
1943	9 (-)	0.15	-	-	1117
1944	6 (6)	0.10	-	-	635
1945	10 (6)	0.16	1	0.02	853
1946	7 (5)	0.10	-	-	807
1947	3 (1)	0.04	-	-	776
1948	4 (1)	0.06	-	-	1335
1949	-	-	-	-	947
1950	1 (1)	0.01	-	-	760

\* Figures in brackets indicate number of cases among staff and patients of the Hospitals for Mental Diseases.



TABLE VI

	Primary notifications relating to persons resident in the Borough of Epsom and Ewell.				Secondary notifications of persons already notified in other districts and now resident in the Borough of Epsom and Ewell.				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20 to 25	-	5	3	-	2	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 to 35	7	6	-	-	8	1	-	-	4	2	-	-
35 to 45	7	3	-	1	5	3	-	-	3	2	-	-
45 to 55	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
55 to 65	6	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	-
65 years and over	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	25	22	4	1	17	9	-	1	13	6	1	-



Public Health Department,  
West Hill House,  
West Hill,  
Epsom.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Epsom and Ewell

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my fourteenth Annual Report on the work of  
the Sanitary Inspectors.

The report is compiled in accordance with directions of the  
Ministry of Health, and as required by Article 27 (18) of the  
Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

A total number of 6912 inspections and visits were made by the  
Sanitary Inspectors during the year and over 1,000 complaints  
investigated. There was a marked increase in the number of visits to  
shops and other food premises, largely due to the new Clean Food  
Byelaws, which came into operation on the 17th July, 1950. Food Hygiene  
has received considerable attention during the past year and these  
Byelaws have been of great assistance in stimulating the interest of  
traders. Admittedly, there are difficulties in securing desirable  
improvements to food premises owing to restrictions on building materials  
and labour, but the requirements of the Byelaws are chiefly concerned  
with personal cleanliness in the handling of food and this is largely  
a matter of education.

During the year 199 informal notices were served requiring  
attention to housing defects and other sanitary matters, which resulted  
in the carrying out of an appreciable amount of work. In some cases,  
owing to delay in putting the work in hand, it was found necessary to  
serve Statutory Notices, but I am pleased to report that these were all  
complied with and further legal proceedings avoided.

Details of routine work are given in the report, and it will be seen  
that special attention has been given to meat and food inspection.  
Samples of water, milk and ice-cream were taken regularly, and the list  
of unsound food surrendered shows that much attention is given to the  
supervision of foodstuffs in the Borough.

There has been a considerable increase in the demand for the  
services of the Department in the destruction of rats and mice and  
requests for assistance in dealing with all types of insect pests.

Treatment for the destruction of rats and mice is carried out free  
of cost at private dwellings and only a moderate charge, based on labour  
and materials, is made for business premises, which encourages occupiers  
to report the presence of rodents and the service is generally appreciated.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Ive, the Medical  
Officer of Health, for his advice and co-operation, also to the members  
of my staff for their continued loyalty and assistance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. H.C. HAGGER

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



# SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Summary of inspections and visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors and particulars of other Departmental work:-

	No. of inspections and visits
Inspections under Public Health Act, 1936 ... ..	606
Re-inspections under Public Health Act, 1936 ... ..	985
Inspections under Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	14
Re-inspections under Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	133
Visits to work in progress ... ..	621
Visits in connection with Infectious Disease ... ..	226
Visits in connection with overcrowding ... ..	15
Visits in connection with complaints ... ..	419
Inspections and visits regarding drainage ... ..	957
Inspections and visits regarding cesspools... ..	108
Number of drainage tests carried out ... ..	172
Visits regarding rats and mice infestation (not including visits of rat-catcher) ... ..	168
Visits regarding vermin and insect pests ... ..	125

## APPLICATIONS FOR BUILDING LICENCES:-

Number referred from Borough Engineer ... ..	47
Number of visits in connection therewith ... ..	89
Inspections of Tents, Vans and Sheds ... ..	68
Inspections of Vacant Lands and Dumps ... ..	51
Inspections of Common Yards and Passages ... ..	6
Inspections of Rivers and Streams ... ..	16
Inspections of Stables and Piggeries... ..	36
Inspections of Public Conveniences ... ..	19
Inspections of Swimming Pools ... ..	9
Inspections of Theatres, Cinemas, etc. ... ..	10
Inspections of Schools ... ..	50
Inspections of Offices ... ..	2
Number of Smoke Observations ... ..	2

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

	No. on Register
Inspections of Factories (with power) ... ..	126 134
Inspections of Factories (without power) ... ..	23 7
Inspections of Workplaces ... ..	8 3
Inspections of Outworkers' Rooms ... ..	28

## SHOPS ACTS

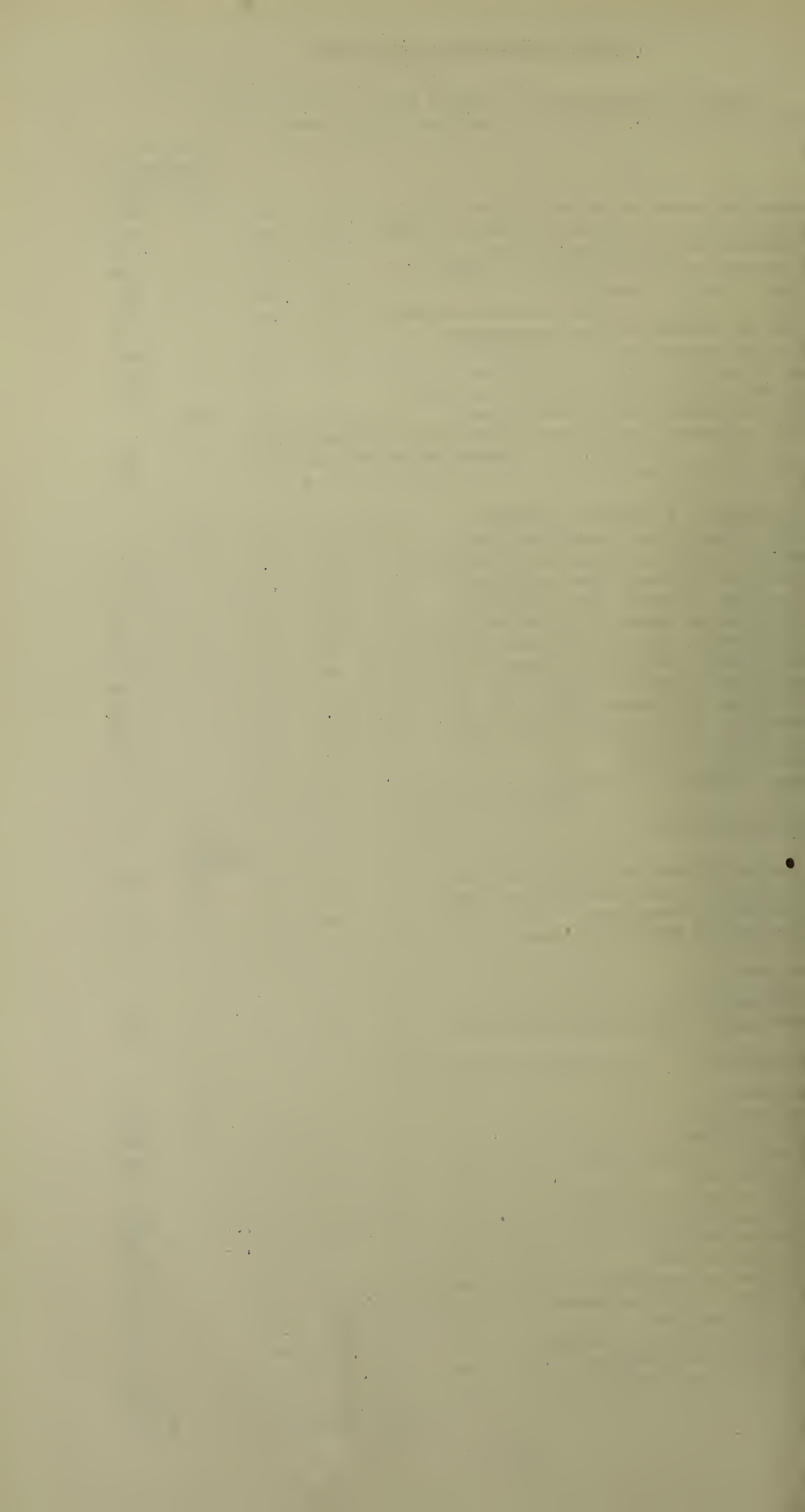
Inspections of Shops (Shops Acts 1912 - 1934) ... ..	111
Inspections of Shops (Shops Act, 1950) ... ..	58

## MEAT AND FOODS - Inspections and Visits to:-

Bakehouses ... ..	14 61
Slaughterhouses ... ..	5 180
Butchers' Shops ... ..	36 131
Fishmongers and Poulterers ... ..	46
Fried Fish Shops ... ..	3
Greengrocers and Fruiterers ... ..	61
Grocers and Provision Shops ... ..	180
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	36
Ice-cream Premises ... ..	218
Manufacture or preparation of preserved food ... ..	33
Restaurants and Dining Rooms ... ..	51
Other food premises ... ..	56
Public Market and Food Stalls ... ..	13
Food Vans and Vehicles ... ..	4
Visits regarding unsound food ... ..	262

Carried forward

6,411



No. of  
inspections  
and visits

Brought forward

6,411

# SAMPLING

Number of ice-cream samples taken ... ..	103
Number of milk samples taken ... ..	178
Milk bottles and churn rinses sampled ... ..	8
Number of water samples taken from main supplies (domestic) ...	6
Number of water samples taken from storage tanks and wells (domestic)	2
Number of water samples taken from swimming pools ...	8
Miscellaneous visits and inspections not included above	501
TOTAL:	6,912

# NUISANCES AND DEFECTS

Number of premises where nuisances or defects found ...	217
Number of nuisances or defects found ... ..	1,133

# NOTICES

Number of Notices served under the following Acts:-

Public Health Act, 1936 (Statutory) ... ..	4
Public Health Act, 1936 (Informal) ... ..	144
Housing Act, 1936 (Statutory) ... ..	1
Housing Act, 1936 (Informal) ... ..	2
Factories Act, 1937 ... ..	9
Shops Acts 1912-1938 & 1950... ..	3
Food & Drugs Act, 1938 ....	38
	199
Number of Notices complied with ... ..	167
Number of Notices outstanding at end of year ... ..	32

COMPLAINTS - The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year.

Insanitary conditions of premises ... ..	138
Flooding ... ..	9
Choked or defective drains ... ..	136
Defective dustbins ... ..	26
Offensive accumulations ... ..	22
Pig waste storage bins... ..	7
Keeping of animals or poultry ... ..	20
Rats or mice infestation ... ..	568
Nuisance from flies and other insect pests ... ..	28
Vermis ... ..	5
Offensive smells... ..	26
Unsound food ... ..	15
Milk supply ... ..	4
Factory and Shops Acts... ..	3
Miscellaneous ... ..	39
	1,046

# SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED, DEFECTS REMEDIED AND OTHER SANITARY MATTERS ATTENDED TO

Choked drains cleared ... ..	96
Drains repaired or relaid ... ..	64
Inspections chambers built or repaired ....	78
W.C.'s repaired or renewed ... ..	29
W.C.'s cleansed ... ..	7
W.C.'s flushing cisterns repaired or renewed ...	13
W.C.'s new or additional ... ..	42
Soil, vent pipes or F.A.I.'s repaired or renewed ...	24
Waste pipes repaired or renewed ... ..	16
New gullies provided ... ..	72



New sinks or wash basins provided or renewed ... ..	90
Water service pipes repaired or renewed ... ..	7
Cesspools repaired or emptied ... ..	11
Cesspools abolished and drainage connected to sewer...	1
New dustbins provided ... ..	38
Yard paving provided or repaired ... ..	12
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt ... ..	8
Roofs repaired ... ..	56
Eaves guttering or rainwater pipes repaired or renewed ...	31
Walls (external) rendered, re-pointed or repaired ...	13
Walls replastered or repaired ... ..	63
Ceilings replastered or repaired ... ..	76
Walls and ceilings cleansed and redecorated ... ..	146
Floors repaired or renewed ... ..	44
Fireplaces or ranges repaired or renewed ... ..	17
Stairs repaired or renewed ... ..	2
Doors repaired or renewed ... ..	21
Windows repaired or renewed... ..	35
Sashcords provided or renewed ... ..	26
Additional lighting and ventilation provided ... ..	2
Dampness remedied ... ..	38
Coppers provided or repaired.. ... ..	2
Food stores ventilated, repaired or cleansed ... ..	2
Rooms disinfected after tuberculosis ... ..	13
Disinfection on request (cost defrayed)... ..	20
Disinfestation of rooms, etc., for vermin ... ..	7
Rooms, etc., sprayed for flies or other insect pests..	44
Dairies cleansed and repaired ... ..	2
Bakehouses cleansed ... ..	10
Slaughterhouses, stables or pigsties cleansed...	6
Keeping of animals - nuisances abated ... ..	7
Offensive accumulations removed ... ..	12
Miscellaneous defects remedied ... ..	136

#### HOUSING

I. Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year:	
1. (a) Total number inspected	227
(b) Number of inspections made	765
2. (a) Inspected under Housing Acts.	14
(b) Number of inspections made.	133
3. Number found unfit	13
4. Number found not to be in all respects fit	144
II. Remedy of defects:	
Number of houses rendered fit	116
III. Action under Statutory Powers:	
A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied	
(a) by owners	6
(b) by Local Authority	-
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	Nil
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.	1



## HOUSING

The shortage of housing accommodation remains a serious national problem and while some progress has been made in the building of new houses, most local authorities have a waiting list which shows no signs of diminishing.

The deterioration of many of the older properties has become so acute that local authorities have been forced to take action under the Housing Act. This, in most cases, involves the rehousing of the occupants and the utilization of accommodation so urgently required by others who may be living under overcrowded conditions or equally distressing circumstances.

In this Borough the problem of unfit houses is not so serious as in some districts, but there are a number of old properties of a low standard, which are generally deteriorating and must, in the near future, be considered for demolition.

Every effort is made to secure the carrying out of essential repairs and in some cases a considerable amount of work has been done during the past year, but it is becoming increasingly difficult for owners to carry out their obligation in this respect when they are in receipt of rents which cannot be increased to meet even a proportion of the higher cost of repairs. This factor cannot be ignored and if further deterioration of property is to be arrested, the rents of such houses must receive attention.

To produce a scheme that will overcome the difficulty and result in satisfaction to the owner and the tenant, is not an easy matter, but whatever increase in rent may be granted, it should be conditional on the fitness of the property.

## OVERCROWDING

Several applications for housing accommodation where overcrowding was suspected were investigated at the request of the Housing Manager, but the permitted number of occupants was found to be exceeded only in one case.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Seven houses were dealt with for bug infestation. In each case the rooms affected were thoroughly sprayed with insecticide and where necessary, bedding, etc., was removed for steam disinfection.

Subsequent inspections were made and in no case was any reinfestation reported.

## SCHOOLS

Fifty inspections and visits by the Sanitary Inspectors were made during the year to Schools in the Borough, including private schools. Minor repairs to drainage and sanitary fittings were found necessary. At one private school where the sanitary accommodation was inadequate, eight new W.C's and twenty wash-hand basins were installed.

There are twenty-five private schools in the Borough.



# FACTORIES ACT, 1937

## Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937

- (1) Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to health,  
including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises  (1)	Number on Register  (3)	Number of		Occupiers Prose- cuted. (6)
		Inspect- ions (4)	Written Notices (5)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	7	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	126	134	9	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	3	-	-
TOTAL	157	144	9	-

- (2) Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred to H.M. Insp- ector (5)	by H.M. Insp- ector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	15	15	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	8	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not relating to outwork)	12	12	-	-	-
TOTAL	36	36	-	2	-



(3) Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work  (1)	Section 110			Section 111		Prosecutions
	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110(1)(c) (3)	No. of cases of defaults in sending lists to the Council. (4)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists. (5)	No. of instances of work in un-whole-spme premises (6)	Not-ices Served (7)	
Wearing apparel (making, etc. cleaning and washing.	2	-	-	-	-	-
Curtains and furniture hangings.	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	-	-	-	-	-

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The number of milk distributors and dairy premises (other than dairy farms) in the Borough, registered in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, is as follows:-

Retail Purveyors	(with premises in the Borough)	7
" "	(from outside the Borough)	7
Dairy and Pasteurising Establishments.		2
Milk Receiving Depots.		4
Shops from which milk is sold		10

Milk Licences

The following licences to sell graded milk were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949, during the year 1950.

	Dealers	Supplementary
"Tuberculin Tested"	12	5
"Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised"	1	2
"Pasteurised"	12	5
"Sterilised"	13	5
	<u>38</u>	<u>17</u>



## Milk Sampling

During the year 178 samples of milk were taken from dairies and milk distributors, including supplies to local hospitals and schools, also routine sampling of two licensed pasteurising plants in the Borough on behalf of the Surrey County Council.

The following summary gives details of the grades of milk sampled and results of the bacteriological examination:-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number of samples</u>
"Tuberculin Tested"	2
"Tuberculin Tested" (Pasteurised)	18
"Pasteurised"	153
"Sterilised"	4
Ordinary Milk (untreated)	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	<u>178</u>

## Result of Tests

	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
"Tuberculin Tested"	1	1	-	-
"T.T. Pasteurised"	15	3	18	-
"Pasteurised"	150	3	151	2
"Sterilised"	4	-	-	-
Ordinary Milk (untreated)	1	-	-	-
	171	7	169 x	2

x Phosphatase test not applied to 7 samples.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

### Slaughterhouses

Owing to the centralised slaughtering scheme of the Ministry of Food, there is only one private slaughterhouse in use in the Borough. Arrangements are made for local pigkeepers to use this slaughterhouse for the occasional slaughter of pigs under licence, and it serves a useful purpose in preventing, as far as possible, pigkeepers slaughtering on their own premises, where conditions are not always suitable. It also provides better facilities for inspection on the carcasses.

At the request of the South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, arrangements are made for the inspection of all animals after slaughter at the slaughterhouses of the Mental Hospitals in the Borough.

The following summary relates to the inspection of animals after slaughter at the private and hospital slaughterhouses during the year.



Carcases inspected and condemned:-

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	11	67	178	7	312
Number inspected	11	67	178	7	312
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	1	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	5	-	-	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	9.09%	8.95%	.56%	-	1.89%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned		-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned		-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis		-	-	-	-

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Ten applications for the renewal of licences to slaughter animals under the above Act were received and considered by the Council. In each case the licence was granted, and the fees, amounting to 10/- (ten shillings) were forwarded to the Borough Treasurer.

Butchers' Shops

There are thirty-six retail butchers' shops in the Borough all of which have been periodically inspected during the year, one hundred and thirty-one visits and inspections being made.

A refrigerator or other means of cold storage is provided at each shop, and with only one exception all have permanent glass windows as shop fronts.

The standard of cleanliness in butchers' shops has, on the whole, been satisfactory, and only in a few cases was it necessary to serve Notices.



### Butchers' Shops (contd)

The following matters have been attended to during the year as a result of verbal or written notice:-

Constant supply of hot water provided.	8
Cleansing of walls and ceilings of shops, storerooms, staff rooms, W.C's., etc.	6
New sinks or wash-hand basins provided.	3
Repairs to drainage or sanitary fittings.	4
Cleansing or repair of refrigerators.	5
Shop front with glass window provided.	1
Lighting or ventilation improved.	3
New refrigeration plant installed.	1
Other repairs or matters attended to.	4

### Condemned Meat and Other Foods

The following meat and other foods were inspected at shops and food stores within the Borough and found to be unfit for human consumption.

Meat	789 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Sausages & Sausage Meat	322 lbs.
Cooked Meat	50 lbs.	White Puddings	48
Tinned Meat.	275 tins.	Bacon	62 lbs.
Cooked Ham	41 lbs.	Rabbits	154 lbs.
Fish	118 $\frac{3}{4}$ stone	Tinned Fish	135 tins.
Fish Cakes	216	Tinned Fruit	240 tins.
Dried Fruit	176	Cheese	101 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	349 tins.	Milk	161 tins.
Jam and Marmalade	33 tins	Pickles	203 jars.
	or jars	Eggs	1525
Paste	406 tins.	Soup	132 tins.
Macaroni	38 lbs.	Pearl Barley	(162 lbs.
Cornflour	9 lbs.		(48 pkts.
Marzipan	56 lbs.	Fondant	56 lbs.
Biscuits	5 lbs.	Cake	34 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Breakfast Foods	93 pkts.	Rolled Oats	1 cwt.
Sweets	20 lbs.	Crisps	828 pkts.
Pudding Mixtures	200 pkts.	Sugar	2 lbs.
Gravy Cubes	161 pkts.	Tea	35 lbs.
Other foodstuffs	572 tins,		
	jars or pkts.		

Wherever possible, foodstuffs found unfit for human consumption are disposed of for animal feeding (if not diseased) or utilised for other practical purposes to avoid waste.

### Bakehouses

Sixty-one inspections and visits were made during the year to the fourteen bakehouses on the register.

At nine bakehouses matters were found requiring attention and the following is a summary of the work carried out as a result of verbal or written notice:-

Cleansing of walls and ceilings.	10
Repairs to drainage and sanitary accommodation	2
Repairs of floors.	3
Treatment for mice infestation	2
Removal of rubbish and cleansing of yard.	3
Reconstruction (in progress)	2



## Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14

Twenty-four premises are registered under this Section for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

## Food Shops and other Food Premises

During the year, considerable time was devoted to the routine inspection of food shops and other premises where food is prepared. A register of all such premises has been compiled and includes the following.

Bakehouses	14
Bakers.	17
Butchers.	36
Cafes and Restaurants.	50
Confectioners.	58
Dairies and Milkshops.	16
Fishmongers (wet and dry)	15
Fried Fish Shops.	7
Greengrocers.	40
Grocers and General Stores	86
Ice-cream Retailers.	93

A substantial amount of structural and cleansing work has been carried out in food shops, also in cafes and kitchens. Much of this work has been done at the request, or on the advice of the Sanitary Inspectors, and it is worthy of note that over fifty gas or electric heaters for the provision of a constant supply of hot water have been installed in various shops and other food premises in the Borough during the year.

The majority of traders show a readiness to comply with requirements and are willing to co-operate in the efforts being made to raise the standard of cleanliness in the handling of food.

## Shops Act, 1950

The Shops Act, 1950, came into operation on the 1st October, 1950, This is purely a consolidation Act intended as the first step in the comprehensive review of shops legislation. In due course amending legislation is proposed in the light of the report of the Gowers Committee on Closing Hours of Shops.

The increased number of inspections of Food Shops in connection with food hygiene has resulted in the carrying out of repairs and improvements to shop premises, affecting sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, lighting and ventilation, etc., which also has the effect of improving conditions for the employees and meeting requirements of the Shops Act.

## Clean Food Campaign

The Byelaws with respect to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air, have been adopted by the Council and came into operation on the 17th July, 1950.

The Public Health Committee appointed a Sub-Committee to consider the question of a Clean Food Campaign and steps to be taken by the Council to draw the attention to the importance of food hygiene. The Sub-Committee recommended the Public Health Committee to issue a copy of the new Food Byelaws to every food trader in the Borough. This was agreed and over 400 copies were sent out early in January, 1951.

The Sub-Committee also recommended that arrangements be made for a meeting of local food traders, to be addressed by the Food Hygiene Officer of the Ministry of Food and films to be shown to encourage the clean handling of food.



### Clean Food Campaign (contd)

This meeting was arranged to be held at the Town Hall on the 15th February, 1951, and was attended by over 160 persons, including food traders, members of the Council and representatives of local Associations.

A most interesting talk on "Food Hygiene" was given by Mr. Morley Parry, the Ministry's Food Hygiene Officer, and films relating to the subject were shown during the evening.

There is no doubt that the Meeting encouraged a local interest in clean food and afforded an opportunity to give publicity to the new Byelaws.

### ICE-CREAM

The number of premises used in connection with the manufacture or storage and sale of ice-cream registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, at the end of the year was as follows:-

For manufacture and sale of ice-cream	4
For storage and sale of ice-cream	89
	<u>93</u>

Only one trader is manufacturing ice-cream by the heat treated method, and the remaining three, who normally use a cold mix, have manufactured a very small quantity.

The majority of retailers obtain their supplies of ice-cream from large manufacturers outside the Borough and in most cases pre-packed.

### ICE-CREAM SAMPLING

During the year one hundred and three samples of ice-cream from local manufacturers, retailers, and itinerant dealers were submitted for bacteriological examination. The following table gives a summary of the results:-

1950	<u>Manufacturers</u>				<u>Retailers only</u>				<u>Itinerant Dealers</u>				Total
	Grades				Grades				Grades				
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	
Jan.	1	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Feb.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
March.	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
April.	2	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
May	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	9
June	2	1	2	-	8	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	18
July	2	5	1	2	4	4	2	-	1	3	-	-	24
August	-	2	4	1	4	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	15
Sept.	7	1	1	3	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	18
Oct.	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Nov.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dec.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	15	10	12	7	31	14	5	1	3	5	-	-	103



### Ice-Cream Sampling (contd)

Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice-cream, and to the experimental error of the Laboratory test itself, the Public Health Laboratory Service advises that it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any given sample, and that judgment should be based rather on a series of samples.

It is therefore the practice to follow up by repeat samples, all cases reported in Grades III and IV, and while it is recognised that the test may not always prove entirely reliable, it has served a very useful purpose in providing a means of checking up on the cleanliness of ice-cream.

In cases where ice-cream is supplied from outside the Borough, the Sanitary Officer of the district concerned is notified when a sample is found unsatisfactory.

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The above Act came into force on the 31st March, 1950, and the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, was thereby repealed.

Occupiers of land or buildings are now under an obligation to notify the local authority in writing of the presence of rats and mice in substantial numbers. It is the duty of every local authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure, so far as practicable, that their district is kept free from rats and mice. They are empowered to make inspections and enforce owners and occupiers to carry out such operations as may be necessary for this purpose.

Advice and assistance are given to persons who report any infestation or apply for information as to preventive measures. Such advice is based on methods of destruction recommended by the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Where treatment is carried out at premises other than private dwellings, a charge is made at the rate of 4/- per hour, with a minimum charge of 4/-.

Two full-time Rodent Operatives are employed by the Corporation and their work is performed under the general supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:-

Number of complaints and reports investigated	568
Number of inspections and visits	3278
Number of premises found infested	682
Number of treatments carried out by the Corporation's Rodent Operatives:-	
at private dwellings	701
at business premises	55
Number of cases where poisoned bait used	692
Number of cases where gas or traps used	85
Number of rats known to have been caught and destroyed by:-	
(a) The Corporation's Rodent Operatives	960
(b) By employees at Sewage Farm	246

### SEWER RAT CONTROL

The treatment of sewers was continued during the year in accordance with requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Division.

The Rodent Operative with the help of sewer men from the Borough Engineer's Department, carried out the test-baiting of sewer manholes in the Borough, following up with poisoned bait treatment any sections of sewers found to be infested.



## Sewer Rat Control (contd)

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year ending 31st March, 1951.

	<u>1st Treatment</u>	<u>2nd Treatment</u>
Number of sections of sewers treated	15	15
Total number of manholes test baited	131	450

Result of test baiting on two consecutive days:-

Number of complete takes (on one or both days)	100	71
Number of partial takes ( " " " " " )	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>
	<u>112</u>	<u>80</u>

Result of poison baiting the manholes which on test baiting had shown complete or partial takes:-

Number of complete takes	37	27
" " partial "	73	52
" " no takes	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>112</u>	<u>80</u>

## INSECT PESTS

Numerous requests were received during the year for advice and assistance in dealing with various types of household insect pests; flies, moths, furniture beetles, woodworm, crickets, etc.

Assistance is also given in the destruction of wasps' nests, and owing to the increase in the number of requests during the Summer of 1949, the Committee considered whether payment should be made for this service. It was, however, decided to continue to give assistance without charge.

## SCHOOL DISINFESTATION

At the request of the Surrey County Council, the Corporation agreed to carry out the work of disinfestation at school buildings, school canteens and other properties in the Borough owned by the Surrey County Council.

This work has been undertaken since the 1st April, 1950, and the charges made are based on the actual cost of labour, plus material and a reasonable charge for administration.

## MOSQUITO CONTROL

The spraying of ponds and pools in the Wilmerhatch Lane, Epsom, area, was carried out as in former years, and these control measures have largely reduced the nuisance from mosquitoes.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

No complaints of nuisance from smoke have been received during the year.

## MORTUARY

Ninety-five bodies have been admitted to the mortuary and post-mortems held during the year. The number includes thirty bodies from outside districts, fees amounting to £22. 10. 0. being received for the use of the post-mortem room.

A refrigeration plant with cold store containing three tier body rack is installed at the Mortuary.

